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TITLE: Soluble lymphotoxin-.beta. receptors and anti-lymphotoxin receptor and ligand antibodies as therapeutic agents for the treatment of immunological disease

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INVENTOR-INFORMATION:

NAME	CITY	STATE	ZIP CODE	COUNTRY
Browning; Jeffrey L.	Brookline	MA		
Benjamin; Christopher D.	Beverly	MA		
Hochman; Paula S.	Brookline	MA		

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CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A method for altering a delayed type hypersensitivity response in an animal comprising the step of administering a pharmaceutical composition which comprises a therapeutically effective amount of a lymphotoxin -.beta. receptor blocking agent and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

2. The method according to claim 1, wherein the lymphotoxin-.beta. receptor blocking agent is selected from the group consisting of a soluble lymphotoxin-.beta. receptor comprising a functional sequence of amino acids selected from the amino acids of SEQ.ID.NO.1, an antibody directed against lymphotoxin-.beta. receptor, and an antibody directed against a surface LT ligand comprising at least one lymphotoxin-.beta. subunit.

3. The method according to claim 2, wherein the animal is a mammal.

4. The method according to claim 3, wherein the mammal is a human.

5. The method according to claim 1, wherein the lymphotoxin-.beta.-receptor blocking agent comprises a soluble lymphotoxin-.beta. receptor comprising a functional sequence of amino acids selected from the amino acids of SEQ.ID.NO.1, and having a ligand binding domain that can bind to a surface LT ligand comprising at least one lymphotoxin-.beta. subunit.

6. The method according to claim 5, wherein the soluble lymphotoxin-.beta. receptor further comprises a human immunoglobulin Fc domain.

7. The method according to claim 1, wherein the LT-.beta.-R blocking agent comprises a monoclonal antibody directed against LT-.beta. receptor.

8. The method according to claim 7, wherein the composition is administered in an amount sufficient to coat LT-.beta. receptor-positive cells for 1 to 14 days.

9. The method according to claim 4, wherein the LT-.beta.-R blocking agent comprises anti-human LT-.beta.-R mAb BDA8 produced by the hybridoma cell line BD.A8.AB9 (ATCC Accession No: HB11798).

10. The method according to claim 1, wherein the LT-.beta.-R blocking agent comprises a monoclonal antibody directed against surface LT ligand.

11. The method according to claim 10, wherein the composition is administered in an amount sufficient to coat surface LT ligand-positive cells for 1 to 14 days.

12. The method according to claim 10, wherein the antibody is directed against a subunit of the LT ligand.

13. The method according to claim 4, wherein the LT-.beta.-R blocking agent comprises anti-human LT-.beta. mAb B9 produced by the hybridoma cell line B9.C9.1 (ATCC Accession No: 11962).

14. The method according to claim 3, wherein the mammal is a mouse and the LT-.beta.-R blocking agent comprises a monoclonal antibody directed against a murine surface LT ligand.

15. A method for treating inflammatory bowel disease in an animal comprising the step of administering a pharmaceutical composition which comprises a therapeutically effective amount of a lymphotoxin-.beta. receptor blocking agent and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

16. The method according to claim 15 wherein the lymphotoxin-.beta. receptor blocking agent is selected from the group consisting of a soluble lymphotoxin-.beta. receptor comprising a functional sequence of amino acids selected from the amino acids of SEQ. ID.NO.1, an antibody directed against lymphotoxin .beta. receptor, and an antibody directed against a surface LT ligand comprising at least one lymphotoxin-.beta. subunit.